

**CLAIMS**

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a medical chart regarding a patient's medical condition for which an appointment has been scheduled with a physician, comprising:

enabling said patient to access a server site, and enabling said condition at said server

5 site;

connecting said patient to said server site;

interactively interviewing said patient by said server site regarding said enabled condition, and storing information from said patient regarding said condition in patient files at said server site;

10 responsive to said interview, electronically generating, by said server site, pre-visit information that includes an editable preliminary chart note including information relating to said patient's condition; and

transmitting said preliminary chart note to said physician.

15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising, after examining said patient by said physician:

completing said patient's chart note by said physician responsive to said examination;

and

storing said completed chart note at said server site.

20 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically generating pre-visit information responsive to said interview that includes a pre-visit physician report including expert medical information relating to said patient's condition, and transmitting said report to said physician.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said pre-visit physician report includes at least one of differential diagnoses, work-up algorithms, treatment considerations, and literature references, and transmitting said pre-visit physician report to said physician.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically generating pre-visit information  
5 that includes a pre-visit patient summary responsive to said interview including information relating to said patient's condition, and transmitting said pre-visit patient summary to said patient.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of electronically generating said pre-visit  
10 patient summary further comprises electronically generating key questions relating to said condition, and transmitting said key questions to said patient.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of electronically generating said pre-visit  
information further comprises electronically generating a pre-visit physician report that includes said key questions and a rationale for each of said questions, and transmitting said pre-visit physician report to said physician.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising, after examining said patient by said  
15 physician, generating a post-visit patient report, and transmitting said post-visit report to said patient

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
responsive to said interview, electronically generating a pre-visit patient summary  
20 relating to said patient's condition, said pre-visit summary including a plurality of key questions relating to said conditions, and transmitting said report to said patient;  
responsive to said interview, electronically generating a pre-visit physician report

including expert medical information relating to said patient's condition, said pre-visit physician report also including said plurality of key questions and a rationale for each of said questions, and transmitting said pre-visit physician report to said physician.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said pre-visit physician report further includes at least  
5 one of differential diagnoses, work-up algorithms, treatment considerations, and literature references, and transmitting said pre-visit physician report to said physician.

11. A method for creating a medical chart regarding an office visit for a specific condition of a patient, comprising:

providing a server site connected to an electronic communication network, said server  
10 site including storage of patient files for a plurality of patients including said patient;  
connecting said patient to said server site using said electronic communication network;  
interviewing said patient by said server site regarding said specific condition, and  
storing information from said patient regarding said specific condition in said patient's files at  
said server site;

15 electronically generating, by said server site, pre-visit information that includes a pre-visit patient summary and a preliminary chart note, and transmitting said pre-visit patient summary to said patient and said preliminary chart note to said physician;

examining said patient by said physician;

completing said patient's chart note by said physician responsive to said examination;

20 and

storing said completed chart note at said server site.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

selecting, by said physician, condition-specific educational material to be provided to

said patient; and

responsive to said completed chart note and said selected material, electronically  
generating a post-visit report for said patient.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of key  
5 questions to said patient with said pre-visit summary, and supplying said plurality of pre-visit  
questions to said physician prior to said patient's visit.

14. The method of claim 11 further comprising  
supplying an access code associated with a patient to emergency personnel assigned to  
treat said patient; and

10 utilizing said access code to connect to said server site and view said patient's file to  
assist in treating said patient.

15. The method of claim 11 further comprising, by said patient:  
subsequently logging onto said server site;  
viewing said patient's file; and  
15 updating said patient's file.

16. The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
electronically storing a group of patient files without patient identifiers such that said  
patient files avoid disclosing the identity of the patients associated with said files, and;  
performing medical studies utilizing said group of patient files.

20 17. A method for assisting a physician in providing medical services to a patient who has a  
medical condition, comprising:  
providing a server site connected to an electronic communication network, said server

site including storage of patient files for a plurality of patients including said patient;

providing a patient with access information for logging on to said server site;

logging onto said server site by said patient, and in response to a request by said patient, registering said patient including creating an electronic file for said patient in said patient record database;

conducting a pre-visit interview of said patient using electronically selected information including interactively interviewing said patient in preparation for a medical consultation, and responsive to said pre-visit interview, electronically storing responses of said patient in said patient's electronic file;

responsive to said pre-visit interview, electronically generating a pre-visit summary that includes condition-specific preliminary information and transmitting said pre-visit summary to said patient; and

responsive to said pre-visit interview, electronically generating pre-visit information that includes a preliminary chart note and condition-specific educational material, and transmitting said pre-visit information to said physician.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising protecting the security of all transmissions to and from said server site over said electronic communication network, including encrypting said transmissions, and further including protecting the privacy of said patient's file on said server site.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of key questions to said patient with said pre-visit summary, and supplying said plurality of pre-visit questions to said physician with said pre-visit information.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

examining said patient by said physician, and responsive to said examination, completing said patient's chart note by said physician and transmitting said completed chart note to said server site for storage in said patient's file;

responsive to said examination, electronically selecting condition-specific educational  
5 material to be provided to said patient, and transmitting said selected material to said server site for storage in said patient's file; and

responsive to said completed chart note and said selected material, electronically generating a post-visit report for said patient.

21. The method of claim 17 further comprising, by said patient:

10 subsequently logging onto said server site;  
viewing said patient's file; and  
updating said patient's file.

22. The method of claim 17 further comprising, by said physician:

15 subsequently logging onto said server site;  
viewing said patient's file unless said patient has previously updated said patient's file to de-select said physician.

23. The method of claim 17 further comprising:

electronically storing a group of patient files without patient identifiers such that said patient files avoid disclosing the identity of the patients associated with said files, and;  
20 performing medical studies utilizing said group of patient files.

24. A medical information system that utilizes an electronic communication network for facilitating delivery of medical services from physicians to patients, and for electronically storing patient files, comprising:

a communication link to said electronic communication network;

a plurality of databases stored in computer-readable form, including condition-specific medical information and individual patient files;

a plurality of computer programs connected to said databases and said communication  
5 link;

a system for providing an interactive interview for said patient and storing responses thereto in said patient's file;

a system, responsive to said interview, for generating a condition-specific pre-visit summary for said patient in preparation for a visit by said patient to a physician; and

10 a system, responsive to said interview, for generating pre-visit condition-specific material including a preliminary chart note for the physician in advance of said visit by said patient.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein said databases include a database including key questions, and further comprising a system for selecting and providing a plurality of key  
15 questions to said patient with said pre-visit summary, and a system for supplying said plurality of pre-visit questions to said physician with said pre-visit information.

26. The system of claim 24 further comprising means for protecting the security of all transmissions to and from said server site over said electronic communication network, including encrypting said transmissions, and further including means for protecting the privacy  
20 of said patient's file on said server site.

27. The system of claim 24 further comprising:

a system for said physician to complete said patient's chart note, and transmitting said completed chart note to said server site for storage in said patient's file;

a system for electronically selecting condition-specific educational material to be provided to said patient, and transmitting said selected material to said server site for storage in said patient's file; and

a system, responsive to said completed chart note and said selected material, that electronically generates a post-visit report for said patient.

28. The system of claim 24 further comprising a system for allowing said patient to update said patient's file.

29. The system of claim 24 further comprising a system for allowing a physician to view said patient's file only if said physician has been pre-authorized by said patient.

30. The system of claim 24 further comprising a system for allowing emergency personnel to view said patient's file.

31. The system of claim 24 further comprising a system for performing medical studies utilizing said group of patient files.

32. A computerized method of clinically educating a physician over an electronic network, comprising the steps of:

interviewing a plurality of patients, each patient having one or more of a plurality of medical conditions;

for each patient, generating a report in computerized form for said physician that includes condition specific information regarding medical practices relating to said one or more medical conditions applicable to said patient; and

prior to each of said consultations, providing said physician with said condition-specific information in computerized form regarding medical practices relating to said one or more



medical conditions applicable to said patient, thereby clinically educating said physician with updated medical practices relating to said one or more medical conditions.

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